



OCTOBER EVENTS

Monthly Meeting: 8 p.m. Monday, October 14, 2019
Atlanta Botanical Garden, Day Hall

Program: David Mellard on terrestrial orchids

David will not be selling plants. Members may bring plants to sell.



Pleione Tongariro

Atlanta Orchid Society Auction Saturday, November 2

The society's annual auction will be held at **Rock Springs Presbyterian Church**, just down the road from ABG on Piedmont (1824 Piedmont Ave.). A potluck luncheon will be held at 11 a.m., and the auction will take place from about noon to 3 p.m. If you'd like to join us for lunch, please bring a dish to share.

If you have any nice plants to donate for the auction, please send a list to Mark Reinke (markreinke@att.net).

We will put together a catalog of the plants being auctioned like we did last year. Hopefully we'll have it available online about a week before the auction.

This month's speaker is out-going president of the Atlanta Orchid Society, David Mellard. He is an experienced orchid grower with a deep interest in orchids and unusual plants like *Sarracenia*, *Trillium*, and species *Begonia*. He will talk about his experience growing tropical and temperate terrestrial orchids from around the world by including examples from each continent. The title of his talk is "A World View of Temperate and Tropical Terrestrial Orchids".



Cynorkis guttata

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Volume 60: Number 10 – October 2019

Newsletter Editors: [Véronique Perrot](#) & [Mark Reinke](#)

The [Atlanta Orchid Society](#) is affiliated with the [American Orchid Society](#), the [Orchid Digest Corporation](#), the [Mid-America Orchid Congress](#) and the [Garden Club of Georgia](#).

**Minutes of September 9th Meeting of the Atlanta Orchid Society**

The September 9, 2019 meeting of the Atlanta Orchid Society was called to order by David Mellard, President, at 8:05 p.m. Two visitors were introduced, with collections of 12 plants to several thousand housed in two large greenhouses. The meeting minutes of the August 2019 monthly meeting were approved as presented in the monthly newsletter.

Dan Williamson, Treasurer, provided a detailed review of the Society's account balances. Detailed expense and revenue information is available to any member by contacting Dan.

AJC Monthly Judging will be held on September 14th in the Magnolia Room of the ABG, with judges training starting at noon and judging starting at 1 p.m. HB Blythe-Hart will be providing a talk on judging oncidiums.

This year's MAOC meeting will be held in Milwaukee September 13-15. Interested individuals should see Doug Hartong for more information.

The Alabama Orchid Show will be held at the Birmingham Botanical Garden in Birmingham, Alabama September 21-22, with show setup on Friday, September 20th.

The Smoky Mountain Orchid Show will be held at Stanley's Greenhouse in Knoxville, Tennessee on September 28-29.

The next monthly meeting of the Atlanta Orchid Society will be on Monday evening, October 14th. David Mellard will be presenting a talk on Terrestrial Orchids.

There will be an American Orchid Society member's meeting in Homestead, Florida on October 16-20.

David announced that arrangements have been finalized for the AtIOS Annual Auction and covered dish on Saturday, November 2nd. The event will be held again this year at Rock Springs Presbyterian Church, 1824 Piedmont Avenue. The covered dish buffet will be at noon and the auction will be from 1 to 4 p.m. Plants to be auctioned will include some from the collection donated by the Meincers'

David Mellard alerted members to be on the lookout for a scam email allegedly from him that asks for help by sending gift cards and donations to the Hospice Care Valley Home, and that you will be reimbursed. Members should delete these messages should they be received.

David Mellard asked that if any member is not receiving the monthly newsletter to let him know so that the mail group can be updated.

David Mellard reminded everyone of the members of the nominating committee who have been identifying candidates for next year's Board. Committee members are Véronique Perrot, HB Blythe-Hart, Danny Lentz, Larry Kikkert and Bob Grzesik.

Special guest Tom Kuligowski presented an interesting talk on angraecums.

After a brief break so that judges could complete the monthly judging of plants brought in by members, the announcement of the ribbon recipients was made and the winning plants were described.

With no further business or announcements, the meeting was adjourned at approximately 9:40 p.m.

Respectfully submitted by Darrell Demeritt, Secretary

Welcome New and Returning Members

George Guenther from Atlanta, Neal Steakley from Atlanta, and Nicholas Rust from Lawrenceville.

Events Calendar

October

12 - American Orchid Society monthly judging, (noon) training, (1 p.m.) judging, at the Atlanta Botanical Garden – Magnolia Room behind Day Hall

14 - Atlanta Orchid Society Monthly Meeting, ABG, Day Hall – 8 p.m.
Speaker: David Mellard, Growing Terrestrial Orchids

Oct. 16-20 – [AOS meeting](#) in Homestead, FL

26 - South Metro Orchid Society Auction – see details at right

November

2 – Atlanta Orchid Society Annual Auction, Rock Spring Presbyterian Church, 1824 Piedmont Ave. NE, Atlanta 30324

2 – Slipper Symposium (Apopka, FL)

8-10 – Triangle OS Show (Durham, NC)

9 – American Orchid Society monthly judging

11 – Atlanta Orchid Society Monthly Meeting, ABG, Day Hall – 8 p.m.
Speaker: Steve Frowine on fragrant orchids.

Future Events

March 2020 – [World Orchid Conference](#) in Taichung, Taiwan

Announcements, Notes, Classifieds, etc.

If you have a few things you want to sell or swap, or are thinking about ordering something that others might be interested in splitting, let us know and we can put a note in the newsletter.

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All current officers will reach their term limit at the end of the year, and trustees Jody Gomez and Doug Hartong will finish their three-year term. Trac Nguyn and Maegan Brass will continue their terms as trustees through 2020, and Atushi Matsumoto and Carl Quattlebaum through 2021.

Here is the slate of officers and trustees proposed for election to the board for 2020:

President: Helen Blythe-Hart

Secretary: Jody Gomez

Vice-President: Danny Lentz

Trustee: Larry Kikkert

Treasurer: Jon Crate

Trustee: Véronique Perrot

The election will be held at the November meeting.

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South Metro Orchid Society Auction and Covered Dish Lunch, on Saturday, October 26 at 11 a.m., at the home of Mike & Mary Cawthon, 135 South Mt. Carmel Rd. McDonough, GA 30253. (H: 678-583-4096, Mary's cell: 404-630-5624, Mike's cell: 404-372-3102). From Atlanta on I75 South, take exit 221.

Volunteering at ABG

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The Atlanta Botanical Garden is recruiting docents for its Orchid Specialist program. Orchid Specialists greet guests in the Fuqua Orchid Center and answer questions about orchids, orchid growing, the Orchid Center, and the Atlanta Botanical Garden.

Requirements: As part of their training, new Orchid Specialists will apprentice with a veteran Orchid Specialist. New Orchid Specialists will also be asked to complete Orchids for Beginners I and II at ABG.

There are openings currently available on weekdays and weekends. For more information, please contact Josh Todd, Volunteer Manager, at jtodd@atlantabg.org [Several AtIOS members, including Marianne Gilmore, Geni Smith, and Clark Weisner, volunteer as Orchid Specialists and seem to enjoy it very much. If you're interested you may want to talk to one of them. –danny]



Join the Atlanta Orchid Society

Membership in the Atlanta Orchid Society is \$30 for individuals or \$45 for households. Yearly membership runs January 1–December 31. Anyone joining in the third quarter will get a 50% discount on the current year's membership. Anyone joining in the fourth quarter will purchase a membership for the following year. You can join at one of our monthly meetings, contact the society's Treasurer (see page 2) for a membership application, or complete an application online at our website:

www.atlantaorchidsociety.org

Atlanta Orchid Society Monthly Ribbon Winners September 2019

Notes by Mark Reinke

Photos by Danny Lentz

Class I – Cattleya Group



Blue – Cattleya Bob Betts 'York,' AM/AOS – Dan Williamson

Cattleya Bob Betts was introduced in 1950 by Clint McDade. It is perhaps the most famous of dozens of cattleya hybrids he introduced from the late 1940's to the early 1960's. He lived on until 1986 when he died at the age of 94. Here are some interesting paragraphs from his obituary: "Clint McDade turned his hobby of growing orchids into huge world-wide business, and became the founder of Rivermont Orchids in Signal Mountain, Tennessee.

When Clint traveled to England he bought an Orchid nursery there; during WWII he brought most of the valuable and rare orchid breeding plants from England to the United States to save them from destruction by Nazi buzz bombs and freezing from lack of coal and heat.

In 1941 when Queen Elizabeth married, the orchids she carried were provided by Clint McDade.

He was also successful in renaming the *Cattleya* General Patton orchid. He had originally registered this hybrid as *Cattleya* Joseph Stalin after the Russian dictator. As Stalin's exploits against his own people became known during World War II, McDade realized his mistake in naming a beautiful orchid after him. In an attempt to rectify his mistake, McDade contacted the Royal Horticultural Society and begged the society for permission to change the registration name on the hybrid.

In this single, unique case, the RHS agreed, and Rivermont was allowed to change the name of the orchid to *Cattleya* General Patton in honor of the great American general.

In 1975 Clint McDade donated to The College of the Ozarks in Missouri, in which he was one of the School's first students, the nucleus of his collection, which today numbers more than 7,000 plants."

One of the plants rescued from the Nazi blitz of London was *C. Bow Bells*, a parent of *C. Bob Betts*. Both are considered to be near perfection in white cattleya breeding. In the case of our blue ribbon winner, the other parent is listed as *Cattleya mossiae (alba)*. However, it was later discovered this wild collected plant with exceptional form was a natural hybrid between *C. mossiae var. alba* and *C. lueddemanniana var. alba*, which is known as *C. Gravesiana*. The luck of finding this plant allowed for near perfection in this color of breeding in just a few generations, whereas other colors, especially yellows and dark purples, would take many more years of work to reach the same level.

For all the large flowered cattleyas, it is important that as mature plants, the media is allowed to dry completely between watering in order to both maintain healthy roots and encourage new ones to grow. The actual media you choose to use can depend on the conditions in your growing area, your discipline to avoid watering too often, and personal preference. I have seen spectacular cattleyas grown in gravel, large bark and even in pro mix (a fine mixture of peat moss and Perlite). With the latter, the frequency of watering is reduced, and the urge to water again must be resisted until the mix is bone dry.



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Red – Rhyncolaeliocattleya Oconee 'Mendenhall,' AM/AOS – Carson Barnes

White – Cattleychea Siam Jade – Dan Williamson

White – Rhyncattleanthe Coral Gold 'Pacific Rainbow' – Larry Kikkert

Class II – Cymbidium Group

No Entries

Class III – Dendrobium Group



Blue – Dendrobium yulianiae – George Guenther

While I was unable to attend this meeting, I met the owner of this plant at the Alabama Orchid Show last month. He is a new addition to the staff of the Fuqua Orchid Center at the ABG and an avid fan of unusual Dendrobium species and hybrids. This particular plant certainly fits the category, having not been in cultivation for long and with little information about its exact habitat. It is presumed to be endemic to the Ambon Islands in Maluku Province of Indonesia. These islands lay in the sea between New Guinea and Sulawesi and are practically on the equator.

The plant is described as resembling a miniature form of *Den. bracteosum*, with small pseudobulbs that produce just a couple of leaves and flower on older growths that have lost their leaves, with fairly sizeable (when compared to the plant) starry white flowers with a yellow lip. The blooms can come at any time of the year and are long lasting. The climate of the region suggests that it prefers intermediate to warm growing conditions with ample year round watering. Andy's Orchids offers mounted plants that are blooming size but not inexpensive. The Meyers Conservatory is taking orders for flasks and has a little over

400 seedlings *in vitro* to sell in the hopes of making this unusual miniature more available. This is just one of many *Dendrobium* species from the Pacific Islands that are barely known in cultivation but deserve to be grown.

Here is more about this orchid from its owner, George Guenther: "I'm growing that *Den. yulianiae* in clay & sphagnum with daily misting and irregular 1/4-strength Green Jungle fertilizer. I have it in my glass orchid case where the humidity tends to be 80%+ with active, constant airflow at intermediate-ish (66/76F night/day) temperatures. Light levels are bright under LEDs with an intensity of @25 umol/m2/sec for 13hr/day.

I've found it to be temperamental, at least in regards to media and repotting - when I first bought it, I remounted it from the Andy's stick onto a piece of cork with Oregon green moss. It grew very well and flowered, but then dropped leaves and sulked when the green moss broke down. I decided to pot it up in sphagnum afterwards, and it has since grown pretty consistently and flowered for the second time in 2.5yrs recently. It did have more buds initially this time, but they didn't hold through to flowering... Overall I'd say it's nice species, but certainly not one for a beginner."



Red – *Dendrobium* Misty Magic – George Guenther

White – *Dendrobium trinervium* – Véronique Perrot

Class IV – Epidendrum Group No Entries

Class V – Oncidium Group



Blue – *Bramesa* Reiko Oh – Darrell Demeritt

Darrell entered this plant under the parent names of *Brassia* Aloha 'Elizabeth' x *Oncidium vericosum*. This combination was registered in 2007, originally as *Brassidium* Reiko Oh. Since then all of the Brazilian *Oncidium* species have been reclassified as *Gomesa*, resulting in the current accepted name for the cross.

The usual spidery shape of *Brassia* is not apparent in the look of the flowers as that genus is a great grandparent in the family tree and all the other ancestors are various *Gomesa* species with a fairly rounded profile. Nonetheless the flowers are beautiful and intricately marked. While I can't see the growths of the plant in the photo, I would presume it to be rather compact due to being 50% *Gomesa vericosa* which is a fairly small grower by nature.

Considering that all three of the *Gomesa*

species in the ancestry of this orchid (comprising 7/8ths of the total genetic background) come from cool to mild locations in the wild it likely does not do well exposed to our summer heat and is better grown indoors or in front of evaporative cooling in a greenhouse.

Red – *Oncidium* no name - Darrell Demeritt

Class VI – Slipper Alliance



Blue – *Paphiopedilum henryanum* - Danny Lentz & Dianne Morgan

This charming species from SW China is the new "must have" *Paphiopedilum*, full of color and character and willing to flower on plants that are downright tiny. There will be at least one plant, and possibly two, flowering in 2.5" pots in our annual auction coming up on November 2nd. Described in 1987, the original plants came from near Napo village,



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which is in Guangxi Province near its border with Yunnan Province in China and the northernmost border of Vietnam. Luckily, despite its small natural range, *Paph. henryanum* is now being grown from seed using selected examples of the species.

The color and pattern of the flowers quickly draws attention with a bright orchid pink pouch lip offset by a chartreuse dorsal sepal that is peppered with random, rather sizeable, dark purple dots. The horizontal petals have wavy edges and are greenish bronze peppered with somewhat smaller dark spots. These qualities, along with small size, have made this species a favorite with breeders since the late 1980's and now at least 99 first generation crosses have been registered, along with an additional 53 crosses where this species is a grandparent. Some of these pairings make good use of the unique look of this species, while others have all but obliterated them. However, these learning experiences give guidance to hybridizers, revealing the best path to results that might equal or exceed the allure of the original. The red ribbon winner in this group, *Paph. Doll's Kobold* is a cross between this species and *Paph. charlesworthii*.

The habitat of *Paph. henryanum* is typically monsoonal with a warm, wet summer and a cooler drier winter. However, the occurrence of dew and mist in the dry season means that in cultivation, watering should be reduced in winter, but the plants should never dry out completely. They probably require some degree of cool as well in order to grow and bloom properly. However, Danny and Dianne have successfully grown this plant under lights in a grow room that does not drop below the upper 60's, so it seems the species is adaptable, or at least the line bred plants that are now available in commerce.



Red – *Paphiopedilum* Doll's Kobold – Danny Lentz & Dianne Morgan

White – *Paphiopedilum godefroyae* – Danny Lentz & Dianne Morgan

White – *Phragmipedium* Don Wimber – Danny Lentz & Dianne Morgan

Class VII - Phalaenopsis Group Species



Blue – *Phalaenopsis violacea forma alba* – Danny Lentz & Dianne Morgan

This is the albino version of a fragrant species which comes from warm, humid lowland forests of Borneo, Sumatra and the Malay Peninsula where it grows in shaded conditions with regular rainfall and even temperatures throughout the year. It has particularly broad, shiny leaves for the genus. Short inflorescences produce just a few sequential flowers each bloom season, and they are generally only about two inches across. But these facts, along with the challenge of maintaining proper cultural conditions, does not deter the many fans of *Phal. violacea*. In a warm, shady

greenhouse it may be possible to grow this orchid mounted, as long as you don't mind providing frequent water, but most growers find pots work best, filled with an open and fast draining medium. Plants should be repotted when new roots are forming, at the first sign that the medium is breaking down.

Class VIII - Vandaceous Group



Blue – *Vandachostylis* Lou Sneary x *Vanda vietnamica* – Dan Williamson

This appears to be one of a batch of unflowered seedlings I obtained from a wholesaler in Hawaii a couple of years ago. I was intrigued by the combination and aware that plants of smaller stature, like this one, open up vandaceous culture to hobby growers without a controlled environment greenhouse or growing area.

This example, likely blooming for the first time, has retained the color pattern of *V. vietnamica*, a fairly recently described species which until recently was placed in its own genus of *Chistiansonia*. Genetic testing showed it to be too closely related to *Vanda* to warrant a separate genus. But the form of these flowers would be considered a big improvement over that species, with larger, broader green segments symmetrically spread across a single plane. I have seen one other example of the cross with a similar form, but with pinkish-lavender segments contrasting with the green lip. Not easily seen in the photo is the pronounced nectar spur protruding from the back of the flower and a notable trait of all three species involved in this still unregistered cross.

The addition of *V. vietnamica* would likely push this hybrid toward a preference for somewhat warmer winter minimum tempera-

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tures than *Van*. Lou Sneary will endure, with 55F or warmer likely the target to shoot for. Plentiful watering, paired with perfect drainage in summer and fall, should give way to somewhat less water the balance of the year. Bright, but diffused light rather than direct sun would be best. The light intensity from modern LED fixtures is probably ideal.

Red – *Vandachostylis* Viboon Velvet ‘Perfection’ – Darrell Demeritt

Class IX – Miscellaneous



Blue – *Pectabendaria* Thai Dancer– Nicholas Rust

New member Nicholas Rust brought in three unusual and outstanding hybrids in the *Habenaria* type breeding, all of them registered as new crosses only in the last two years, and likely very difficult to find commercially at this point, though hopefully more obtainable in the future. This example combines *Pecteilis sussanae* and *Habenaria carnea*, which, like the other members of these genera, are from various locations in Southeast Asia, typically on sites that are hilly or mountainous and have a pronounced dry winter, at which time the plants go dormant and endure the drought as small underground tubers.

Here is some information from the grower, Nicholas Rust: “Starting from the end of dormancy, I pot all my *Habenaria* in a well-draining, peat-based terrestrial medium once they

start to throw up their shoots. At this point, I only mist the soil once every week or two. Once the plants break the soil, it's important to be very careful not to spray any water inside the shoots or they'll rot. After the plants are about 1-1.5 inches tall, they'll start to develop roots. I mist the soil about once every 4-5 days or so after this until they're about 2.0+ inches tall (depending on the species or hybrid). Now is when I start to give them their normal watering schedule, which is a heavy watering about 1-2 times per week. It's hard to overwater *Habenaria* at this point. I grow them all under full spectrum LEDs and fertilize them with 1/2 strength, balanced fertilizer once every 2 weeks. I used to use a beneficial bacterial and fungal inoculant, but I noticed that the tubers rot very quickly after they would go dormant again, so I stopped. Shortly after flowering, the tips of the leaves will begin to yellow. Once this occurs, it's important to completely stop watering. The entire plant will die back and leave any new tubers beneath the medium. If you don't have too many *Habenaria*-types, you can just leave them in the soil. If you have a lot (this is what I do), dig them up and place them in a plastic bag with some slightly damp sphagnum moss. This allows for close monitoring of the plants for any rot or for when they begin to emerge from their dormancy again, while also replicating the environment under soil by maintaining a slight moisture due to the sphagnum. This helps to prevent rot (from being too wet) or desiccation (from being too dry).

That's the general culture I use for my *Habenaria*. Some species like *Hab. xanthocheila* has slightly altered dormancies (they just emerge a lot later) while other species like *Pecteilis radiata* or *Hab. davidii* require cold dormancies and cool-growing but require bright light.

I get the plants from all over. Many are from individual nurseries that happened to have a plant, many are from Leon Glicenstein, some (but not too many) are from Ebay. I've been collecting them over the past 4+ years or so, and they're my main genus of focus.”

After flowering, plants gradually die from the top down and by late fall have fully died back. Little to no water is applied during dormancy, although in a low humidity environment some light watering might be needed to

keep the tubers from desiccating. When new shoots appear in spring, you may find that the plant has multiplied to the point that you want to split individual plants up into separate pots to keep or share, or maintain as a unit until you have a breathtaking colony. The last two years, I (Mark Reinke) have allowed my plants to sit in a very shallow amount of water in a tray while actively growing and that seems to have produced better growth. Summer rainfall in the native habitats is usually quite heavy so they never have a chance to dry during that season.



Red – *Habenaria* Oriole – Nicholas Rust



Red – *Habenaria* Raingreen's Pink Paw – Nicholas Rust

White – *Habenaria* Pegasus – Danny Lentz & Dianne Morgan

White – *Arundina graminifolia* (dwarf form) – Danny Lentz & Dianne Morgan

From the Alabama Orchid Show in Birmingham on Sept 21-22:

The Northeast Alabama Orchid Society won the AOS show trophy at the Alabama Orchid Show in Birmingham on Sept 21-22.

Geni Smith put together her own exhibit (pictured at right). Below is the exhibit of the Atlanta Orchid Society.

